

12 FEB 2007



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Whitham, Curtis, Christofferson & Cook, PC
11491 Sunset Hills Road
Suite 340
Reston, VA 20190

In re Application of :
HANERT et al. :
U.S. Application No. 10/551,332 :
PCT No.: PCT/DE04/00430 : DECISION ON REQUEST
Int. Filing Date: 05 March 2004 :
Priority Date: 31 March 2003 :
Attorney Docket No.: 03100257AA :
For: BIOFILTER SYSTEM AND METHOD
FOR PURIFYING GASES ESCAPING
FROM A GULLY HOLE

This decision is issued in response to applicants' "Response to Notification of Missing Requirements" filed 21 January 2007, which is being treated as a Request under 37 CFR 1.497(d). The \$130 petition fee has been charged to counsel's deposit account no. 50-2041.

BACKGROUND

On 05 March 2004, applicants filed international application no. PCT/DE04/00430 which claimed a priority date of 31 March 2003. The international application named Helmut Hanert and Matthais Nieber as an applicant/inventor. Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.495, the deadline for payment of the basic national fee in the United States was to expire 30 months from the priority date, 31 September 2005.

On 29 September 2005, applicants filed a transmittal letter for entry into the national stage accompanied by, *inter alia*, the requisite basic national fee; a copy of the international application; and a preliminary amendment.

On 03 November 2006, the United States Designated/Elected Office mailed a Notification of Missing Requirements (Form PCT/DO/EO/905) indicating that an oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.497(a) and (b) must be filed. The notification set a two-month time limit in which to respond.

On 21 January 2007, applicants filed the present request which included: a declaration executed by: Peter Harborth; Helmut Hanert and Matthais Nieber; a Statement of Lack of Deceptive Intent by Omitted Inventor for Correcting Inventorship under 37 CFR 1.48(a); Written Consent of Originally-Named Inventor to Correct Inventorship under 37 CFR 1.48 executed by Matthias Nieber and Helmut Hanert.

DISCUSSION

As defined in 37 CFR 1.9(a)(3), a U.S. national stage application must first comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 371(c) to constitute a "nonprovisional" application, therefore, applicants' request will be treated under 37 CFR 1.497(d). The present submission seeks to correct the inventorship so as to add inventor Peter Harborth to the application. Where, as here, the inventorship in the national stage declaration is not consistent with the inventorship in the international application, applicants must correct the inventorship pursuant to 37 CFR 1.497(d), which states the following:

(d) If the oath or declaration filed pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4) and this section names an inventive entity different from the inventive entity set forth in the international application, the oath or declaration must be accompanied by:

- (1) A statement from each person being added as an inventor and from each person being deleted as an inventor that any error in inventorship in the international application occurred without deceptive intention on his or her part;
- (2) The processing fee set forth in § 1.17; and
- (3) If an assignment has been executed by any of the original named inventors, the written consent of the assignees (see § 3.73(b) of this chapter).
- (4) any new oath or declaration required by paragraph (f) of this subsection.

Applicants have satisfied items (1), (2) and (4).

Applicants have not satisfied item (3). In order to satisfy item (3), applicants are required to submit a written consent of assignee to the correction in inventorship in compliance with 37 CFR 3.73(b), or written confirmation that no assignee exists.

Because applicants have not satisfied all the requirements of 37 CFR 1.497(d), inventor Peter Harborth cannot be added to the application at the present time.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' request to add inventor Peter Harborth under 37 CFR 1.497(d) is **DISMISSED** without prejudice. The inventors of record remain the inventors named on the international application.

Applicants must file a proper response to this decision within **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mail date indicated above. A proper response must include a written consent of assignee in compliance with 37 CFR 3.73(b). Failure to file a timely and proper response will result in abandonment of the application. Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Please direct further correspondence with respect to this matter to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, with the contents of the letter marked to the attention of the Office of PCT Legal Administration.



Anthony Smith
Attorney-Advisor
Office of PCT Legal Administration
Tel: (571) 272-3298
Fax: (571) 273-0459

02/12/2007 SBASHEIR 00000000 502041 10551332
01 FC:1464 130.00 DA